List of Radio Museums

Bruce Kelley, W2ICE, secretary of the Antique Wireless Association, has assembled a list of radio museums in various parts of the United States. The list covers both public and private collections. Amateurs may wish to include a visit to one or more of these museums as part of their vacation plans.

The following are public museums:

Henry Ford Museum, Dearborn, Mich. One of the largest radio exhibits in the world, the material presented ranges from NAA spark wheel and broadcast receivers to the McMurdo tube collection.

Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C. This collection ultimately will be one of the finest in the U. S. Dr. Finn is currently arranging the radio exhibit, which will be open to the public.

Corpus Christi City Miseum, Corpus Christi, Tex. This is a relatively new museum with an outstanding exhibit of rare commercial and broadcast equipment currently being laid out in a systematic manner under the supervision of Frank Smith, W5VA, owner of the local television station.

Canadian Bell Museum, Montreal, Que., Canada. Although emphasis is on development of the telephone, there is an exceptional display of early tubes and some radio equipment.

Signal Corps Museum, Fort Monmouth, N. J. This is a fine display of military communication equipment as well as some of a nonmilitary nature.

Electronics Museum, Foothills College, Los Altos Hills, Calif. Presently under construction, this museum will house the Douglas Perham collection and other material, including several Federal arc transmitters.

ARRL Museum, Main Street, Newington, Conn. (near Hartford). An outstanding exhibit of early amateur radio equipment displayed in several large glass showcases. It is open to the public on weekdays, 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Seattle Museum of History and Industry, Seattle, Wash. A continuous display of early wireless and broadcast equipment, which is changed every few months. Information on current exhibits may be obtained from Warren Green, W7JY, 7202 North Mercer Way, Mercer Island, Wash. 98040.

Thomas Edison Museum, Main Street, West Orange, N. J. A large public museum devoted to Edison's inventions; it runs the gamut from early light bulbs and generators to early phonographs and motion picture apparatus.

Deutsches Technical Museum, Munich, Germany. A large display of early German electronic and electric apparatus.

British Science Museum, Kensington (London), England. One of the finest radio exhibits in the world, it is carefully laid out to show development of wireless from the earliest days. The emphasis is on Marconi.

In addition are the following *private* museums. Those wishing to visit should write or call in advance as some are open only by special arrangement.

W6AX Pioneer Museum, 21120 Sullivan Way, Saratoga, Calif. 95070 Very early amateur and commercial wireless equipment plus unusual assortment of high potential apparatus.

Antique Wireless Association Museum (W2AN), Holcomb, N. Y. 14469 (near Rochester). A club collection of more than 30,000 items ranging from Fleming valves and early Marconi equipment to broadcast and World War I spark transmitters.

Gray's Museum of Wireless, Church Street, Mason, Ohio (near Cincinnati). An unusual private museum consisting of several rooms of broadcast, amateur, and commercial equipment plus a large collection of Crosley and Grebe receivers. It is operated by retired VOA/WLW engineer Jack Gray, W8JDV.

New England Wireless Museum (W1NTE), Tillinghast Road, East Greenwich, R. I. A museum of excellent quality with individual exhibits devoted to different pioneers (amateur, commercial, and broadcast).

W2ZI Wireless Museum, 19 Blackwood Drive, Trenton, N. J. 08628. Outstanding collection of rare commercial equipment, telegraph keys, and historical material.

Nelson Collection, Concord, N. C. A private collection in the home of Wayne Nelson, W4AA, owner of local broadcasting station. It includes broadcast, amateur, and commercial equipment.

Princeton Tube Collection, Princeton Junction, N. J. One of the world's largest collection of tubes. The owner, Howard Schrader, is in the process of laying out the display of 18,000 tubes in a separate building.

Pavek Museum (WØOEP), 55 South 12th Street, Minneapolis, Minn. Interesting collection of early broadcast and amateur equipment neatly arranged in showcases.

Freeman Collection, Yankton, S. Dak. A wide variety of early radio equipment and telegraph instruments in display cabinets. E. Freeman, KØMOA, is the curator.

Phillips Collection (W6GH), 1010 Monte Drive, Santa Barbara, Calif. A very selective exhibit of rare amateur and commercial equipment plus a collection of old-time wireless stock certificates.

England Collection, 6523 Repton Street, Los Angeles, Calif. A large private collection of classic broadcast and early commercial receivers.

Thompson Tube Collection (W9JWW), 1403 South Fourth Street, Effingham, Ill. 62401. A fine display of more than 1500 vacuum tubes plus 500 early lamps.

Lauren Peckham Collection, Ormiston Road, Breesport, N. Y. 14816 (north of Elmira). A large collection of early tubes, many of which are experimental types from Westinghouse. Also includes early radio and musical equipment.

In addition, there are those who specialize such as telegraph key collectors W2ZH and QST YL Editor WB6BBO, W6YPM and W7RD and W9AKH early spark equipment, Atwater-Kent specialist K4PI and early periodical authority W4ID.

This is but a partial listing – all told, there are over 400 amateur collectors and historians in the United States and Canada. QST

A HALF CENTURY *PLUS* OF HAMS

Amateur radio has been an organized volunteer communications service and scientific hobby for more than 60 years.

In May, 1914 a group of amateurs in Hartford, Connecticut, led by the late Hiram Percy Maxim, noted industrialist, author, and inventor, created the American Radio Relay League. It is a non-commercial association of radio amateurs, bonded for the promotion of interest in amateur radio communication and experimentation, for the relaying of messages by radio, for the advancement of the radio art and of the public welfare, for the representation of the radio amateur in legislative matters, and for the maintenance of fraternalism and a high standard of conduct.

The largest amateur radio organization in the world with more than 150,000 members, the League is the spokesman of amateurs in the U.S. and Canada and is headquarters society for the International Amateur Radio Union, comprising similar organizations in nearly a hundred nations.

Governed by a board of directors, elected biennially by ARRL members in each of sixteen divisions, the League is a representative democracy which has grown and prospered with amateur radio.

The League's headquarters is in the Hartford suburban town of Newington, near its place of origin. Its 145 employees prepare and publish technical literature, develop new equipment ideas in a modern laboratory, prepare training materials and coordinate ham radio introductory courses all over the country, answer questions of members on all phases of the technical hobby, coordinate the National Traffic System, and maintain liaison with the Federal Communications Commission (which regulates amateur radio), the Department of Defense (which regards the amateur body as a standby communications reserve), the American National Red Cross (which relies on amateurs for much of its emergency communications) and other groups.

The League also maintains a model amateur station bearing the name and callsign of its founder. The Maxim Memorial Station, W1AW, transmits ham news bulletins day and night by Morse Code, voice, and radio teletype, and has regular practice sessions for those learning the Morse Code.

The origin of the term "ham" is obscure. Many interesting tales have been fabricated by persons of inventive minds, but none has stood up under close examination. We are left with the prosaic explanation that the term is merely a short-cut form of the word "amateur"; that is, a person interested in radio technique solely from a personal aim and without pecuniary interest, holding a valid license issued by the Federal Communications Commission. They'll gladly help any people – CBers, Short Wave Listeners, lads who tear old radio and TV equipment apart or anyone else along the path to a license.

Some books and articles on the history of ARRL and Amateur Radio are:

First chapter of any ARRL Handbook
Fifty Years of ARRL
Two Hundred Meters and Down, by Clinton B. DeSoto, W1CBD
Calling CQ, by Clinton B. DeSoto, W1CBD; published by Doubleday, Doran & Co.

QST, May 1939: Stories reliving early days of ARRL and Amateur Radio
QST, December, 1940: commemoration of 25th anniversary of QST
QST, May, 1948: The ARRL – *Your* Organization, by Kenneth B. Warner, W1EH
QST, October, 1954: Story of Amateur Radio from 1915 (December) to 1922 (July), by Sumner B. Young, WØCO
QST, February, March, April, June, July, and August: same as QST, October, 1954
QST, December, 1956: same as QST, October, 1954
QST, July, October, December: same as QST, October, 1954
QST, May, 1954: commemoration 40th anniversary of League
QST, December, 1955: commemoration of 40th anniversary of QST with entire reprint of first QST, 1915
QST, May, 1964: ARRL and International Amateur Radio
QST, February, 1969: The ARRL Museum of Amateur Radio
QST, July and November, 1969: Old equipment ads from the ARRL museum (scattered through the issues)
QST, September, 1970: List of Radio Museums (reprinted and attached to this copy)

For additional information on amateur radio call or write to The American Radio Relay League, Inc., 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111. The phone number is Area 203, 666-1541 (twenty-four hours a day).

OVER

MS/PR-4
7707 pro-gam